

examining boards, one for State and one in each county. Each of these boards may examine. Qualifications necessary for passing are left to their judgment; no specifications in law. All those already practising at time of passage of act to be entitled to certificate of medical examining board without passing examinations. Penalty misdemeanor; fine \$25 to \$100.

2.

Regents elected for life by Legislature. Appoint medical examining boards from nominations made by medical societies. Expenses of boards met by fees. Qualifications specified in law: Age, moral character, proofs of preliminary education, college or high school or equivalent, or regents' examinations; four years from date this preliminary work to be more exacting. Four-years' course in medical college of a certain grade; *e.g.*, any one registered by regents as maintaining uniform standards. Evidence of five or more years' practice may be accepted as equivalent, such substitution to be recorded in license. Men from other States where State board has standards not lower may have their certificates endorsed by regents, with all rights. Penalty, \$250 to \$500 fine,—or imprisonment, or both.

3.

Law provides two forms of certificate,—one for those already practising and one for future applicants.

MISS LINDA RICHARDS

BY ONE OF HER PUPILS

THE first woman to enter a training-school for nurses in the United States still occupies an active institution position after twenty-eight years of almost constant nursing work.

Miss Linda Richards was born in New York State, but was reared and educated in Vermont. She is a woman above the medium height, commanding in appearance, with a genial, sunny personality that has won for her many friends.

The New England Hospital is rarely accredited as being among the first to establish training-schools. Such, in fact, is the truth, although the hospital at that time was small and the period of training only one year.

Miss Richards entered this school, its first pupil, September 1, 1872, receiving her diploma one year from that date. One month later she went to Bellevue, New York, as night superintendent, the first American trained woman to hold a hospital position.

November 1, 1874, she took charge of the Boston Training-School connected with the Massachusetts General Hospital. At this time the training-school experiment was wavering. Perhaps her greatest work was done there in turning the balance, restoring professional confidence

by her reorganization of the school on lines so broad and judicious as to be the basis upon which the school is largely conducted at the present time.

April 16, 1877, she sailed for England for extended hospital experience. She spent some months as resident nurse in St. Thomas and King's College Hospitals, London, and at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, visiting many hospitals in London and Paris.

January 1, 1878, in co-operation with Dr. E. Cowles, she organized the Training-School of the Boston City Hospital. December, 1885, she was sent by the American Board of Missions to organize a school for the training of native women nurses in Tokio, Japan, returning to America in March, 1891. For eight months she was in charge of the "visiting nursing" work of Philadelphia, was for a short time at the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, but failing in her effort to establish a training-school there she accepted an invitation to organize the school of the Methodist Hospital, Philadelphia, which position she resigned because of ill-health.

January 1, 1893, she returned to the New England Hospital as superintendent of the hospital. In April, 1894, she went to the Homœopathic Hospital Training-School, Brooklyn, where her organizing talent was necessary, remaining for the term of her engagement—one year. In November, 1895, she took charge of the Training-School of the Hartford Hospital, remaining two years. The plans for the Nurses' Home, recently completed, were made during her administration. Then followed one year at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia. For the past year her work has been in connection with the Insane Hospital of Taunton, Massachusetts.

For a long time Miss Richards has felt that there was great need for intelligent trained women in many of the institutions for the insane, and she has entered into this branch of the work with the spirit of a philanthropist, giving of her vast experience for the alleviation of the condition of this most pitiful class of people.

With the many changes that have come in nursing methods during this quarter of a century Miss Richards has kept closely in touch.

No one woman in the profession has wielded a broader influence as an organizer and reformer. Wherever she has set her hand, improved conditions have followed for patients and nurses.

To those who know her intimately, one of her greatest charms lies in her extreme modesty. Always ready to lend a helping hand to others, she never pushes herself into public notice, but is always retiring and modest, a womanly woman in the truest sense.